THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) Representations have been received from Delhi Professional Photographers' Association concerning. amongst others, the quality of HPF's products, its monopoly in photo sensitised goods, high cost of foreign technology, price increase etc. and asking for the removal of the CMD. The allegations have been gone into and have not been found to be based on facts. M's. HPF have been progressively meeting the demand of black and white range of photographic products through its integrated production programme. Apart from HPF. there is another unit undertaking integrated manufacture of photo sensitised goods. Letters of intent have also been issued to two other units. For meeting demand of X-ray films, graphic art films and cine colour positive films etc., HPF undertakes conversion from imported jumbo rolls. COB licences have also been issued to a number of undertakings for conversion from imported jumbo rolls.

The quality of products from HPF is by and large satisfactory and it has a quality assurance programme. Specific complaints. when received, are looked into.

As regards price revision, this is largely guided by a formula laid down by the Bureau of Industrial Cost and Prices.

Need to review the present durg policy

*256. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI:
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the views of his Ministry on the drug industry clamouring for higher mark ups and more profits and the consumer groups pleading that prices and profits of the industry are very high;

(b) whether his Ministry has conducted any study into the profits and mark ups;

(c) if so. what are the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that a review of the present policy and DPCO, 1987 is in progress;

(e) if so. whether it is not necessary to conduct study on profitability and mark ups before reviewing the policy; and

(f) if so, what steps have been taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (f) It is the endeavour of the Government to ensure easy availability of medicines in abundant quantity at fair and reasonable prices to the consumers. In order to achieve this objective, the Government is reviewing the entire Drug Policy. While doing so, all the representations, suggestions etc. received from various forums including Drug Industry and Consumer Groups will be taken into account. The profitability of the Drug Industry and present allowable MAPE under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 will also form a part of the aforesaid review

Clearance of overdues by State Electricity Boards

*257. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has directed the State Electricity Boards to clear their overdues of Rs. 2300 crores within some stipulated period of time:

(b) if so, by when and whether the balance of uppaid amounts would be adjusted against the annual plan allocations of the States concerned; and

(c) what other steps are being taken by Government to see that the overdues of Rs. 2300 crores are recovered from the SEBs eary?